

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1052

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1327

DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR GV EAID

SUBJECT: GUINEAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

REF: A) CONAKRY 1314 B) CONAKRY 1189

1. AMBASSADOR AND PAO MET AUGUST 20 WITH SAIFOULAYE DIALLO, MINISTER OF SOCIAL DOMAIN AND CONFIDANTE OF PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, TO DISCUSS DIALLO'S PROSPECTIVE IV TRIP TO US (REFTEL A).

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF GUINEAN FOOD PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY, DIALLO WARMLY PRAISED ACHIEVEMENTS OF US AGRICULTURE AS HAD SEKOU TOURE IN EARLIER CONVERSATION (REFTEL B). AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT VIGOR OF US FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING. IN FRANK EXCHANGE AMBASSADOR OFFERED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT RECOVERY OF GUINEAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY AND FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY

WOULD REQUIRE REINTRODUCTION OF SOME DEGREE FREE ENTERPRISE AND COMPETITIVE MARKETING, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD BE REGULATED BY GOG. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT US WAS PLEASED TO BE PREPARING AID MODEL FARM/AG TRAINING PROJECT. UNFORTUNATELY WE SAW NO PRACTICAL WAY TO MAKE MORE DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEAN FOOD PRODUCTION GIVEN CURRENT

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GOG COLLECTIVIST SYSTEM AND PRICING, MONETARY AND DISTRIBUTION

POLICIES.

3. COMMENT: DIALLO MAY NOT HAVE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND SEEMED TO RESIST

THE ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY AMBASSADOR (ALTHOUGH HIS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ALSO PRESENT, WAS NODDING AGREEMENT). IN REPORTING CONVERSATION TO SEKOU TOURE DIALLO WILL PROBABLY SKIRT AROUND THE THRUST OF AMBASSADOR'S ARGUMENT, WHICH OF COURSE CONTRADICTS THE PRESIDENT'S IDEOLOGY. A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTRY IS THAT EVEN CLOSE ADVISERS ARE AFRAID TO LEVEL WITH THE "SUPREME STRATEGIST".

HARROP

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